REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for total consideration given the present application. Claims 1-4 were pending prior to the Office Action. Claims 5-14 have been added through this Reply. Thus, claims 1-14 are currently pending of which claim 2 stands withdrawn from further consideration as being drawn to non-elected species. Claim 1 is independent which has been amended through this Reply. Upon careful review, one would conclude that no new matter has been added to the application via this Amendment. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejected claims in light of the amendments and remarks presented herein, and earnestly seek timely allowance of all pending claims.

35 U.S.C. § 103 REJECTION – Sakakibara, Miyoshi

Claims 1, 3, and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Sakakibara (JP 2002-347631)[hereinafter "Sakakibara"] in view of Miyoshi et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0002546)[hereinafter "Miyoshi"]. Applicants respectfully traverse.

For a Section 103 rejection to be proper, a *prima facie* case of obviousness must be established. *See M.P.E.P. 2142.* One requirement to establish *prima facie* case of obviousness is that the prior art references, when combined, must teach or suggest all claim limitations. *See M.P.E.P. 2142; M.P.E.P. 706.02(j).* Thus, if the cited references fail to teach or suggest one or more elements, then the rejection is improper and must be withdrawn.

The claimed invention is directed to motor-bearing holding structure which includes a molded rotor, a metallic member having a first end portion and a second end portion, wherein the first end portion is integrally molded with the rotor, and a first bearing having an inner wheel and an external wheel. The second end portion of the claimed metallic member is rotatably held to the inner wheel at two or more places at equally spaced intervals around a rotary central axis of the molded rotor.

As described in the instant specification, in the conventional art, when performing a insert-molding of a bearing into a rotor to manufacture a motor-bearing holding structure, there is a problem that the structure can have only holding-strength obtained with the insert for bearing

holding strength. (*See paragraphs [0016] and [0017].*) The claimed invention solves this problem by providing a metallic member having a first end portion and a second end portion, wherein the first end portion is integrally molded with the rotor, and ***a first bearing having an inner wheel and an external wheel wherein the second end portion of the claimed metallic member is rotatably held to the inner wheel at two or more places at equally spaced intervals around a rotary central axis of the molded rotor***.

Sakakibara is directed to a conventional steering system in which attachment of a steering shaft 3 and a bearing 5 is made easier by way of introducing a backlash 52 between the steering shaft 3 and the bearing 5 and removing the backlash 52 after the attachment. (*See abstract.*) More specifically, Sakakibara discloses a sleeve 17 which removes the backlash 52 and a flange 24 which stops the suspending portion a periphery 30 of the steering shaft 3. (*See paragraph [0014].*)

On the other hand, Miyoshi is directed to a conventional method of manufacturing a motor shaft for a rotational-to-direct motion converting motor. The method includes a step for forming an end portion of a wire rod into a large diameter portion, a step for flattening the large diameter portion to form the large diameter portion into a plate portion having a prescribed thickness, a step for taking out a prescribed-shaped rotation stopping portion from the plate portion having the prescribed thickness and a step for forming thread ridges on the wire rod other than the rotation stopping portion. (See page 2, paragraph [0021]).

It is respectfully submitted that neither Sakakibara nor Miyoshi, alone or in combination teaches or suggests, *inter alia*, the amended feature, "***a first bearing having an inner wheel and an external wheel***, wherein ***the second end portion of the metallic member is rotatably held to the inner wheel at two or more places at equally spaced intervals around a rotary central axis of the molded rotor***." (*Emphasis added.*) Although Sakakibara discloses a bearing 5, Sakakibara provides no indication of an inner wheel and an external wheel wherein a portion of a metallic member is rotatably held to the inner wheel at two or more places at equally spaced intervals around a rotary central axis of a molded rotor. Indeed, the sleeve of Sakakibara is not metallic, but is an elastic body. Furthermore, the sleeve is not integrally molded as recited in amended

claim 1. In regard to Miyoshi, the entire reference is silent on a bearing having an inner wheel and an external wheel wherein a portion of a metallic member is rotatably held to the inner wheel at two or more places at equally spaced intervals around a rotary central axis of a molded rotor.

Therefore, for at least the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 is allowable over Sakakibara and Miyoshi.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendment, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Ali M. Imam Reg. No. 58,755 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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